20. (Amended) The method as in claim 15, further comprising moving said suction drum means alternately up and down to allow the free transit of the frame after the segment of sheet has been released.

21. (Amended) The method as in claim 15, further comprising applying said supporting and/or lining sheet onto the visible face of said tesserae.

22. (Amended) The method as in claim 15, further comprising delivering a heating flow onto the visible surface of said tesserae before the sheet is applied thereon.

23. (Amended) The method as in claim 22, wherein said heating flow has a temperature of between about 20 and about 40 °C.

24. Panels of glass mosaic, comprising a plurality of mosaic tesserae arranged in a desired geometric configuration, characterized in that they comprise a transparent supporting sheet arranged on the visible face of said mosaic tesserae.

25. (Amended) The panels as in claim 24, wherein said supporting sheet has at least a face equipped with gluing means before it is applied onto said mosaic tesserae.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 have been amended to improve form only.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 30, 2001

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APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF AUGUST 30, 2001

Amendments to the Claims 1-25

1. (Amended) A device [Device] to produce panels of mosaic tesserae [(13)], used to apply at least a supporting and/or lining sheet [(12)] on a visible face of said tesserae [(13)] arranged inside an advancing frame [(14)], said device comprising feeding means [(16)] and application means for applying said sheet [(12)] cooperating with the feeding means of said frame [(14)], [characterized in that] said application means [comprise] including cutting means [(20) able] to cut to size a segment [(12a)] of said sheet [(12)] and suction drum rotating means [(18) able] to retain at least temporarily, on their outer cylindrical surface, said segment [(12a)] of sheet [(12)] and to release [it] said segment onto said mosaic tesserae [(13)].

2. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said cutting means [(20)] are able to act on said sheet [(12)] when it is held on the outer surface of said suction drum means [(18)].

3. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 1 [or 2], wherein said sheet [(12)] has a face equipped with gluing means[, characterized in that said sheet (12)] and is able to wind on said suction drum means [(18)] with its face without gluing means and for an angle such as to invert the direction of feed and present its face equipped with gluing means facing towards said frame [(14)].

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4. (Amended) The device [Device] as in [any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that it comprises] claim 1, further comprising at least a pressure roller [(21)] arranged downstream of said suction drum means [(18)], said pressure roller [(21)] being able to press the segment [(12a)] of said sheet [(12)] against the surface of said tesserae [(13)] to achieve [the] stable attachment thereof.

5. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said suction drum means [(18) comprise] includes a hollow drum equipped inside with means able to create a depression and with a plurality of holes [(19)] on its cylindrical outer surface.

6. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein said suction drum means [(18) comprise] includes means able to interrupt the suction at least in the step when the segment [(12a)] of said sheet [(12)] is released in correspondence with a relative frame [(14)] containing said tesserae [(13)].

7. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein said means able to interrupt the suction comprise mechanical means arranged inside said hollow drum [(18)] for a zone correlated substantially to the size of said frame [(14)].

8. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 3, [characterized in that it comprises] further comprising means [(22)] to deliver steam or nebulized water arranged in cooperation with the visible face of said mosaic tesserae [(13)] and able to deliver a jet against said face to reactivate the glue on said sheet [(12)].

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9. (Amended) The device [Device] as in [any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein said suction drum means [(18)]are equipped with an alternate lifting/lowering movement to allow the free transit of the frame [(14)] after the segment of sheet [(12)] has been released.

10. (Amended) The device [Device] as in [any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that it is able to apply] claim 1, wherein said supporting and/or lining sheet [(12)] is applied on the visible face of said tesserae [(13)].

11. (Amended) The device [Device] as in [any claim from 3 to 10 inclusive, characterized in that,] claim 3, wherein in the event that said sheet [(12)] to be applied comprises at least two layers [(112 and 212)], of which a first layer [(112)] is able to be arranged on said mosaic tesserae [(13)] and at least a second layer [(212)] is able to hold the glue and to be removed when said first layer [(112)] comes into contact with said suction drum [(18)], a winding roller [(23)] is arranged substantially parallel to said suction drum [(18)] to rewind said second layer [(212)] after it has been detached from said first layer [(112)].

12. (Amended) The device [Device] as in [any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that it comprises] claim 1, further comprising means [(24)] able to heat the visible face of said tesserae [(13)] arranged upstream of said means to apply said sheet [(12)].

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13. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein said means able to heat the visible face of said tesserae [(13)] comprise at least a bar [(24)] delivering a flow of hot air.

14. (Amended) The device [Device] as in claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein said means able to heat the visible face of said tesserae [(13)] comprise at least a radiating heating device.

15. (Amended) A method [Method] to produce panels of mosaic tesserae [(13)] and in particular to apply at least a supporting and/or lining sheet [(12)] on a visible face of the mosaic tesserae [(13)] arranged inside an advancing frame [(14)], the method comprising using feeding means [(16)] and application means for applying said sheet [(12)] cooperating with the feeding means of said frame [(14)], [characterized in that it provides that cutting means (20) cut] cutting to size a segment [(12a)] of the sheet [(12) and that suction drum rotating means (18) retain] and retaining at least temporarily, on their outer cylindrical surface, said segment [(12a)] of sheet [(12)] and release it onto said frame [(14)] containing said mosaic tesserae [(13)].

16. (Amended) The method [Method] as in claim 15, wherein said sheet [(12)] has a face equipped with gluing means, [characterized in that it provides that] wherein said sheet [(12)] winds on said suction drum means [(18)] with its face without gluing means and for an angle such as to invert the direction of feed and to present its face equipped with gluing means facing towards said frame [(14)].

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17. (Amended) The method [Method] as in claim 15 [or 16, characterized in that it provides that at least a pressure roller (21), arranged downstream of said suction drum means (18), presses] , further comprising pressing the segment of sheet [(12)] against the surface of said tesserae [(13)] to achieve the stable attachment thereof.

18. (Amended) The method [Method] as in [any claim from 15 to 17 inclusive, characterized in that it provides to interrupt] claim 15, further including interrupting the suction [of said suction drum means (18)] at least in the step when the segment of sheet [(12)] is released in correspondence with a relative frame [(14)] containing said tesserae [(13)].

19. (Amended) The method [Method] as in [any claim from 15 to 18 inclusive, characterized in that means (22) to deliver] claim 15, further including delivering steam or nebulized water, arranged in cooperation with the visible face of said mosaic tesserae [(13)], [deliver] and delivering a jet against said visible face to re-activate the glue arranged on said sheet [(12)].

20. (Amended) The method [Method] as in [any] claim [from] 15 [to 19 inclusive, characterized in that it provides to move] , further comprising moving said suction drum means [(18)] alternately up and down to allow the free transit of the frame [(14)] after the segment [(12a)] of sheet [(12)] has been released.

21. (Amended) The method [Method] as in [any] claim [from] 15 [to 20 inclusive, characterized in that it provides to apply] , further comprising applying said supporting and/or lining sheet [(12)] onto the visible face of said tesserae [(13)].

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22. (Amended) The method [Method] as in [any] claim [from] 15 [to 21 inclusive, characterized in that heating means (24) deliver] , further comprising delivering a heating flow onto the visible surface of said tesserae [(13)] before the sheet [(12)] is applied thereon.

23. (Amended) The method [Method] as in claim 22, [characterized in that] wherein said heating flow has a temperature of between about 20 and about 40 °C.

24. Panels of glass mosaic, comprising a plurality of mosaic tesserae [(13)] arranged in a desired geometric configuration, characterized in that they comprise a transparent supporting sheet [(12)] arranged on the visible face of said mosaic tesserae [(13)].

25. (Amended) [Panels] The panels as in claim 24, [characterized in that] wherein said supporting sheet [(12)] has at least a face equipped with gluing means before it is applied onto said mosaic tesserae [(13)].

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